

Waukau elected chairman, new members sworn into legislature

Llona Tucker-May
Menominee Nation News

On Saturday, February 9th the annual Swearing In ceremony took place at the Menominee Casino Complex. Approximately 100 tribal members were present as the Menominee Tribal Legislature called to order the organizational meeting. The Wolf River Singers played the honor song as Veterans of the Menominee Nation carried in and posted their flags.



Waukau

Menominee's Chief Justice Joseph Martin welcomed tribal members and then introduced Lillian Nelson, who gave a special prayer in honor of the days events.

Once the meeting was underway, Gene Caldwell made a motion to leave the Chairman's salary as is, at \$100,000 annually. The motion was seconded by Apesanahkwat. Other legislative members did not agree with this amount and the motion was defeated; 2 for, 7 opposing. Myron Pyawasit moved to set the Chairman's salary at \$85,000 annually, and seconded by Sarah Skubitz. This motion was carried unanimously.



L. Tucker-May/MNN

Three new officers take their position as well as three new legislators. Pictured above, sitting l-r: new Vice-Chairman-Eugene Caldwell, new Chairperson-Lisa Waukau, new Secretary-Sylvia Wilber, pictured l-r standing are: Sarah Skubitz, new legislators; Anthony Waupochnik, Sr., Joan Delabreau and Gary Besaw.

Next on the agenda was the election of Legislative officers. Gene Caldwell nominated Lisa Waukau for chairmanship. Apesanahkwat moved to cease nominations, which was seconded by Sylvia Wilber. The legislature voted unanimously to cease elections and Chief Justice Martin then announced that Waukau is the Chairperson, by acclamation. Tribal members clapped and cheered their approval of the new chair. Skubitz then nominated Gene Caldwell for vice-chairman. Apesanahkwat made his nomination for Myron Pyawasit for vice-chairman as well. Waukau made a motion that nominations cease, and it was seconded by Apesanahkwat. The motion was carried.

A roll call vote by voice was taken with Caldwell beating out contender Pyawasit with a 6 to 3 vote.

Before the start of the elections for secretary, previous Tribal Chairman, Apesanahkwat said a few brief words to the members of the tribe. "We enter into a new era of politics in hopes that we will have a by-partisan government for our people," he stated and then nominated Sylvia Wilber for the position of Secretary. Pyawasit nominated Gary Besaw. Skubitz moved that nominations cease and Apesanahkwat seconded it. The motion was carried unanimously.

Wilber won the election for Secretary 6 to 3.

New Legislatures Gary Besaw, Anthony Waupochnik and Joan Delabreau were sworn into office by Chief Justice Martin; as family, friends and community members looked on.


Following is the speech of acceptance given by newly elected

Chairperson, Lisa Waukau:
"I am honored to accept the position of Chairman of the Menominee Tribal Legislature and I appreciate the confidence these Legislators have shown in me to lead the tribe in these very difficult times.
My late mother instilled in my sisters and me that public service is the noblest of all endeavors-- and that is what I teach my students-- that they have a duty and responsibility to improve the world they live in.
What you get with me as your Chairman is someone who is willing to work in the spirit of cooperation, one who will advance only those issues that will best serve the Menominee Tribe."

See meeting pg.2

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